



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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## WAXMAN FIGHTS DRUNK DRIVERS

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) has introduced tough federal legislation to cope with the growing problem of drunk driving. According to Waxman, more than half the traffic deaths in the nation are caused by drunk drivers.

The Waxman bill does not require the spending of any federal money. Neither does it expand in any way the federal bureaucracy. Rather, it sets up a series of strict requirements for the states. States which do not meet these requirements would be penalized by losing federal highway safety money.

Under the Waxman plan, people convicted of drunk driving two or more times within five years would lose their licenses for at least a year. Both first offenders and repeat offenders would be subject to some combination of prison sentence, compulsory community service work, fine, and compulsory participation in alcoholism treatment programs.

"Few people realize how serious the drunk driving problem is. In the last ten years a shocking quarter of a million Americans have been killed in alcohol-related auto crashes. This figure is five times the number of Americans killed in Viet Nam. Every single year over one million Americans are crippled, blinded, maimed, or otherwise severely disabled in drunk driving incidents," Waxman noted.

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